Appomattox County . . . Yesterday And Today

"Looking East Toward Surrender Triangle"

1892

By Paul Ghioto

John Marshall Steptoe's placid "civilian life" was to come to an end shortly after he wrote his March 29 letter to girlfriend Hamie - the subject of last week's article. The ominous sounds of approaching war reached Appomattox County in April, 1861 and, as he was of military age, he was quickly caught up in the gathering storm.

Many Appomattox men of that time, like countless others in succeeding generations, were quick to join Steptoe in flocking to the defense of their homeland.

Anxiety over an uncertain future concerned them all and the following letter reflects this as well as the thoughts of a young man about to embark on this country's greatest experience.

Appomattox, April 28, '61

My Dear Hamie,

No doubt you have been wondering at my long silence, or else concluded that the apprehension expressed in your last is true. It is so in part. I have not as yet gone with any company to the seat of war but have been called from home for the whole of last week to attend the drill of militia officers. I have at last, however, succeeded in getting off(f) from the Militia and got the post of 2nd Lieut. in a volunteer company that was organized yesterday at the Court Hourse (sic) of this county. It is said to be the best officered Company in the District, all men of military education. The cloth for our uniforms will be sent from Richmond tomorrow. It is to be gray pants with black stripes one inch wide, a gray shirt with collar to turn down or throw open and trimmed with black cord. The cap also will be gray with a black band. The pants and shirt to be held to the waist with a patent lether (sic) belt with brass plate in front. The uniform is one proposed by myself, as also the name of the company "The Appomattox Invincibles". While, of course, we do not say we will be invincible to any foe, still the name will have the effect of inspiring every man with a more ardent zeal not to disappoint expectations that the name might awaken, the moral effect of pride of name is of no light importance. My Dear, Dear Hamie when I think that I am to tear myself from you, probably never to see you again, my heart feels as thought it would sink within me but my country, injured, bleeding country calls and I must obey, who so base as would not obey. If there be one he should be beneath the respect of any true hearted woman. Hamie Dear, I know you will be grieved to hear that I am about to go. I know you are a woman of a noble and honest heart. I know that the attachment you have declared for me springs from a heart so sincere and pure as truth, and of God! may the day come when I will be restored to love and thee, when the consumation of as much happiness as this world can give may be attained, but if my country's bleeding cause shall need my life the sacrifice is ready at the appointed hour. To say we will have no war is to say what in my opionion can have no possible foundation, - to say we will not have a long war, it to say what is possible, but to say we will have a bloody war is what every man of reflection must believe. Tomorrow we will commence to drill our company and continue to do so until our services are accepted, when that will be I can't tell, if not before a week or ten days it is possible I may be excused for a day or two when I will pay you a visit, but I can not do so just now. Our company is to be drilled and I am to be one of the instructors, but if they learn rapidly, then after while, I may throw my squad with some other and leave them in the hands of one man, until I can visit Bedford. Hamie if I do not see you, what must I do with your daguerectype and letters? Should I have the misfortune never to return may they (sacred tokens of her I love) not fall in the hands of some wicked enough to keep them. Write to me as soon as you get this. Oh that I could see you once before I leave to strain you to a bosom overpowered with anxiety, hope and fear.

Good, bye, good bye sweet woman farewell.

Yours till death Jno. M. Steptoe

And so it was that shortly thereafter, John Marshall marched off to a war which only to writers ever had a chance to becoming a romantic one. Four years later, when General Lee marched his army through Appomattox Court House, Lieutenant Steptoe was a Union prisoner of war on Johnston's Island in Lake Erie - many, many miles from his "Dear Hamie". Whether he ever returned to Appomattox and was reunited with his true love, this writer does not know.

"Vita Militia Lucil"

LOOKING BACK . . .

1. Former county Doctor Palmer's horse's name:
A.) Trigger B.) Cinnamon C.) Liver D.) Mango
2. Residence of Major Joel W. Flood:
A.) Old Home B.) Tower Hill C.) Rose Bower D.) Briarwood
3. Former Fla. Governor who lived in Appomattox:
A) Reubin Askew B.) William Duval C) Francis Pellicer D.) John Newman
4. Residence and store of Bryant Nowlin:
A.) Vera B.) Oakville C.) Stonewall D.) Laurel Hill
5. Former parson of Red Oak Church:
A.) Sam Davidson B.) George Plunkett C.) Thomas Martin D.) Ernest Luckadoo

ANSWERS
1. C
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. C

let's play... TENNIS WEEK JULY 5-12

Toga Community

Union Baptist Church
Sunday - July 13th
Worship Service - 10 a.m.
Sunday School - 11 a.m.

PASTOR'S CORNER:

"The Lord came and told Moses he had good news and bad news:

You can lead your people out of Egypt through the parting of the Red Sea, but you'll have to file an environmental impact study before the 6 o'clock deadline."

Actually, Moses had more serious problems than ecology, as most people do. But God is sufficient - as the church bulletin board advised:

"Bring your Used Cares to the Lord - He Will Give You a Good Deal."

An essay, written by a third grader also says it well: "God is like Ford - He has a better idea. God is like Bayer Aspirin - He works wonders. God is like coke - He's the real thing. God is like Dial. He gives round the clock protection. God is like Hallmark - He cared enough to send the very best."

Knowing this love and strength of God, one man declared: "When I face life's great computer, it can be said that although I was spindled and mutilated, I did not fold."

We are very thankful for the showers of rain. It was very much needed.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Ledford, of Gastonia, N.C., were recent visitors in the home of Rev. and Mrs. Hoyt O. Tench.

We are very happy to report that Mrs. George W. Duff, Jr. is back home from the hospital and is improving.

Mr. and Mrs. William Agee and Kim visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norval Bagby Sunday. We are glad to hear that Norval seemed to be doing very well.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Wilson and Becky, of Lynchburg, and Bobbie Talbott were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Jamerson at a cook-out Saturday night.

Mrs. Sadie Agee was taken out to a birthday dinner Sunday by Mr. and Mrs. Bobbie Gowin and April Lynn. Others attending were Mr. John Agee and Miss Linda Parks and Mrs. Ruby Gowin.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Scruggs, Jr. and Tracy, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Leonard and Ronnie Scruggs have just returned from a vacation at Virginia Beach.

The Toga Girls Softball Team will sponsor a tournament July 12 and 13, starting at 12 noon Saturday. There are ten teams participating from different areas. Everyone is invited to come and support the team.

Mr. Burton Day and Miss Betty Lee Day, of Richmond, spent several days in the home of their father, V. B. Day. Guests also included D. V. Coleman of Buckingham, Stevie Scruggs, Kathy Chernault, Frank Chernault, Frank Cowan and Isabel and Irvy Watson.

"A Quilt Is Something Human"

Handmade quilts are quite special, from the simpliest to the more complicated designs. Mrs. Verna Conner has enjoyed making the "Crazy Quilts" or "Patchwork Quilts" since 1971. She uses an all cotton lining and the design is made up of polyester, tacked with embroidery thread. A "feather stitch" is used around each piece of polyester and leaves the impression of a chicken track. The design is Verna's own with every stitch done by hand.

Mrs. Conner has her quilts for sale at the Historic Appomattox Station Arts and Crafts Center at the railroad depot in downtown Appomattox. HASTACC is open Tuesday thru Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sundays 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Hollywood

Mr. and Mrs. Bryant Walker, of Salem, were dinner guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Deaner and family. Mr. Kenneth Wingfield was a supper guest in this home Saturday night.

Mr. F. O. Covington and daughter, Mrs. Francis Brown, have returned to their home in Marietta, Ohio, after visiting Mr. Covington's sister, Mrs. Mary Bagby, for a couple of weeks.

Deepest sympathy is extended Mr. Wilson Scruggs and family and the Ferguson family in the loss of their loved one, Hamner Ferguson Scruggs.

We wish to welcome two new families to our community, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Gunter and son, Otis, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Zieger and family.

Mr. John Kitchen is slowly improving. We pray for his complete recovery.

We had a very interesting Bible Study Thursday night, taught by Frank Cowan. Also we had a wonderful sermon Sunday taken from Revelation. Come out and join us in worship.

Supper guests Friday night, the 4th, in the W. H. Wingfield home were Mr. and Mrs. Willie Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Wingfield and son, Kenneth, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Wingfield and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Watson and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Coghill, of Richmond, recently visited Mrs. Mary Bagby.

Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Day, of Lynchburg, spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Webb and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Luck, of Mechanicsville, spent Monday afternoon with their aunt, Mrs. C. R. Banton.

Mrs. W. T. Covington was a week end guest of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman.

Mr. David Smith and Mr. Berkley Brown are on the sick list. We pray they both may soon be well.

Mr. and Mrs. Ryland Mayberry, of Newport News, spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Deaner and family. Mrs. Ioan Mayberry returned home with them Sunday after a visit in the Deaner home.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Woodall and Lisa spent the week end in Richmond with Mrs. Woodall's sister, Mrs. Arron Wilson and family. They spent Friday touring the King's Dominion.

Rev. and Mrs. Otis Smith spent the week end in North Carolina with their son, Rev. Carlton Smith and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Sheets and Mr. and Mrs. David Franklin spent Wednesday at Natural Bridge.

Visiting Mrs. Mary Bagby last week were Mrs. Alfred Almond, Mrs. Jerry Kendricks, Jeffery and Jody, Mrs. Ioan Mayberry, Mrs. Kenneth Deaner, Mr. H. W. Jenkins, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Wingfield, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Watson and children, Mr. and Mrs. W. [illegible] and Julia, Mr. and [illegible] Woodall and [illegible] Mrs. James W[illegible]

Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] er, of Hamilton, [illegible] few days last [illegible] son, Rev. Paul [illegible] family.

The L. L. [illegible] visitors Friday [illegible] Mr. and Mrs. C[illegible] and family. We [illegible] Beasley is improving [illegible]

Mrs. W. T. Co[illegible] in the home of [illegible] L. Torrence last [illegible]

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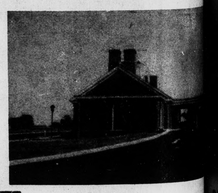
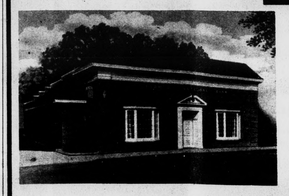
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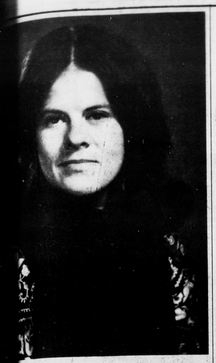

MISS LYNDA HALL

Hall To Wed Charles Wayne Brown

[illegible] Ollie Clayton Hall of Appomattox, announce the [illegible] of their daughter, Lynda, to Mr. Charles Wayne [illegible]mond, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Russell Brown [illegible] in Nelson County.

[illegible] a graduate of Averett Junior College in Danville [illegible] received an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts, [illegible]raduate of Radford College where she received a [illegible] degree in Elementary Education. She has [illegible]raduate work at Lynchburg College. For the past [illegible] she has taught in Campbell County at Concord [illegible] School. She has accepted a positon with the [illegible]sh Public School system for the coming year.

[illegible] is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute [illegible] received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business [illegible]. He has also studied at the University of [illegible] is presently the District Sales Manager in the [illegible] for Richmond Power Equipment Company in [illegible]rginia.

[illegible] will take place in August.

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Society News

Brenda and Janice Hudson, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hudson recently moved to Gladstone, spent a few days recently in Appomattox with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hamlet and their grandmother, Mrs. Lillian Hudson.

Mrs. Nancy P. Smith celebrated her 85th birthday Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wheeler. Dinner guest were Mrs. Glover Jones, of Concord, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Gordon, of Richmond, Mrs. E. A. Covington, of Appomattox, and David and Tommy Wheeler. Afternoon guests were Mr. and Mrs. James R. Ford, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Wheeler.

Mrs. Glover Jones, of Concord, spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. Mary Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Richardson have returned from an extended trip to Monterrey, Mexico, where they visited Mr. James Hall.

Lewis Reunion

Family and friends of the late Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Lewis met July 4th at the home of Mrs. Lewis Foster, of Concord. Eight of the eleven children were present also nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. G. C. McGuhucy and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Hawkins and Rose, of Lynchburg, Mr. and Mrs. John Wilkes, of Wareham, Mrs. Virginia Carter, Mrs. Lula Almond, Mr. and Mrs. James Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Lewis and Nancy, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Poole, Bob and Cindy, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Paulette and Cathy, Mr. and Mrs. James Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Stratton, Monica, Brett and Jeff, also Mrs. Bernice Gilbert, all of Appomattox; Mrs. Hope McConnell and George and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Adie and Jimmie, all of Madison Heights; Mr. Barry Jones, of Spout Spring, Mrs. Love Foster and John. A day of feasting and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

To Celebrate 35th Anniversary

On July 20, 1975 Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie V. Hamlett and Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Day will entertain with a reception honoring their parents on their 35th wedding anniversary.

Friends and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd C. Ranson are invited to attend between the hours of 2 and 6 p.m. Sunday afternoon, July 20, at the Ranson residence.

LET'S PLAY TENNIS WEEK JULY 5-12

photo by Mickey C. Martin

MR. AND MRS. MARSHALL MARTIN

Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Martin celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary with an Open House on Sunday, June 22, 1975 from 2 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon at their home on Route 4, Appomattox.

Hosts for the occasion were their seven children, James Martin, Edith Megginson, Mabel Hines, Ethel Lee Plunkett, Gordon Martin, Keith Martin, and June Page. They have sixteen grandchildren and twenty-three great - grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin were married June 23, 1915 at her home in Cumberland County by the Rev. R. L. Wingfield.

There were approximately 175 guests who called to wish them many more happy anniversaries.

Cocktail Party Honors Couple

Mr. and Mrs. Julian W. Banton, of 8659 Rio Grande Road, Richmond, Virginia, were hosts for a cocktail party Saturday, June 28, at their home honoring Mrs. Banton's brothers, Charles Wayne Brown, and Miss Lynda Hall, bride-elect.

The Brown-Hall wedding will take place in August after which Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Clayton Hall, of Appomattox will be hosts for a reception.

Guests attending the party Saturday included Mr. and Mrs. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Russell Brown of Gladstone in Nelson County, parents of the bridegroom, and friends and relatives of the honored couple.

Concord Garden Club

The Concord Garden Club met on June the ninth at the home of Dr. Mae Kelly.

The devotion was given by Mrs. J. W. Pratt.

An interesting program on the Gardens at Williamsburg was presented by Mrs. Neal E. Fletcher. Mrs. Fletcher showed lovely slides made by her husband at the gardens in different seasons.

The Club voted to contribute a book, **Wildflowers** by Homer D. House to the Campbell County Public Library as a memorial to Mrs. Hattie Johnstone.

Artistic awards were made to: Margaret Davidson - Blue, Becky Olsen - Red, Louise Hite - Red, Mary Graf - Red, and Sandy Crawther - Red.

Horticultural awards were made to: Jo Pratt - Six Blues, Nancy Jones - Blue, Margaret Davidson - Two Blues, Mary Graf - Red, and Jo Pratt - Red.

Announce Engagement

The Dr. Rev. and Mrs. O. R. (Bert) Wilson of Florence, S. C., announce the engagement of their daughter, Ruth Virginia, to Walter Alonzo Julian, son of Mrs. Harold Rochester and the late Alonzo Earl Julian of Greenville, South Carolina.

Miss Wilson is a senior at Clemson University. A graduate of Clemson University, Mr. Julian is a graduate assistant in the College of Journalism, University of South Carolina.

An August wedding in Clemson is planned.

Miss Wilson is the oldest daughter of the former Elizabeth Lee Carter of Stonewall and the granddaughter of Thornhill Carter of Amherst. She is a great-niece of the late Mr. and Mrs. Lester Carson of Stonewall.

IT'S VACATION-TIME

Society News

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Neville and children, Patrick and Kathleen, of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Megginson and daughter, Jessica, of Richmond, spent the past week end with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Richardson.

Mrs. Thomas Richardson is a patient at Virginia Baptist Hospital.

Miss Mary Belle Babcock is a patient at Virginia Baptist Hospital.

Mrs. Bradley Babcock, Whitney Babcock and Gini Babcock, of Harrisonburg, Byron Babcock, of Virginia Beach, Pat Clay and Howard Walker, of Norfolk and Pete Taylor, of Chatham, visited Mrs. A. A. Babcock and family during the holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Rosser and family have returned from a vacation in Nashville.

Mr. George Almond is a patient in Lynchburg General Hospital where he is receiving treatment.

Mrs. Roland Smith has returned home after treatment at Lynchburg General Hospital.

Mrs. Eddie Barron of Arlington, will arrive Sunday to spend a week with her mother, Mrs. G. Lewis Doss.

Mrs. Martha Millner has returned home from Lynchburg General Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Harris and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Paulette and children were dinner guest Saturday evening of Mrs. Frances H. Paulette.

Liberty Baptist Schedules Bible School July 21-25

For the very best summer, attend Vacation Bible School.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled at Liberty Baptist Church from July 21st through July 25th. Bible classes will be each morning at 8:45 a.m. and continue until 11:45 a.m.

For lots of fun, fellowship and Bible Study, girls and boys are invited to attend Vacation Bible School at Liberty Baptist Church.

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photo by Joe Vaughan

MISS CYNTHIA DENISE SIMMONS

Engagement Is Announced

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Simmons of Evergreen, announce the engagement of their daughter, Cynthia Denise, to Joseph Eugene Price, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond M. Price of Appomattox.

Miss Simmons is a graduate of Appomattox County High School.

Mr. Price is a graduate of Appomattox High School and received his B.S. degree from Lynchburg College.

The wedding will be an event of August 23, 1975 at 7 o'clock in the evening, at Evergreen United Methodist Church in Evergreen.

Announce Birth

Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Pullian announce the birth of a son, Brian Ray, born May 28 at Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg.

The infant's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Giles, Jr. and Mrs. Blanche D. Pullam.

Virginia 1974 Traffic Crash Statistics

Final official tabulation of Virginia's 1974 traffic deaths stands at 1,050, coincidentally the same number as in 1964, a decrease of 13.9% when compared with the 1,220 of 1973, Colonel H. W. Burgess, Superintendent of State Police, announced recently.

In Appomattox County during 1974, there were 3 traffic deaths as opposed to zero deaths in 1973.

State pedestrian deaths fell from the 197 in 1973 to 195 in 1974, those of servicemen rose from 43 to 50, those of bicyclists fell from 22 to 16, those at railroad crossings rose from 13 to 16, and those on motorcycles, including minibikes, rose from 59 to 61.

Carroll O'Connor

"I've never had cancer. But I'd be crazy to ignore it. I know many cancers can be cured if they're detected early. But you've got to know the warning signals: Change in bowel or bladder habits. A sore that does not heal. Unusual bleeding or discharge. Thickening or lump in breast or elsewhere. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing. Obvious change in wart or mole. Nagging cough or hoarseness.

If one of them appears, see your doctor right away. The odds are you don't have cancer. But only your doctor can tell you that - for sure."

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